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A ROMANCE OF LUIS VÉLEZ DE GUEVARA

Exception made of the dramatic compositions of Luis Vélez de Guevara, very little verse of the ingenious author of the *Diablo cojuelo* has come to light. Unfortunate in most details of his life, misfortune has pursued him also on the literary side. Though fertile and productive as an author, he had the satisfaction of seeing only a small part of his literary output appear in print during his lifetime. In recent years interest in his work has attracted the attention of investigators and some hitherto unpublished verses have appeared.¹

In the case of verse not specifically attributed to Vélez perhaps no absolutely sure means of identification remains. It is well known, however, that the author, following a practice common in the poets of his day, adopted a poetic name. He chose that of *Lauro*, and any otherwise unidentified verse of the early seventeenth century in which a *Lauro* figures may with reasonable safety be assigned to Vélez. The *romance* published below, in which *Lauro* sings his sorrows and disillusiones, is but typical of much of the verse of the day and scores of similar compositions can be found in the *Romancero general* and other collections. While contributing nothing to the literary fame of Vélez, it is valuable as being an addition to the slowly accumulating fund of his work. It is, so far as the writer has been able to determine, unpublished elsewhere.

Two manuscript versions of the *romance* exist in the Biblioteca Nacional at Madrid. One is found in Ms. 2856, ff. 60 r-61 r; the other is found in Ms. 3915 (*Parnaso español*, IV), ff. 192 v-193 r. We give below the text of Ms. 2856 with the variant readings found in Ms. 3915. One or two corrections, which the reader can easily control by the variants, have been introduced. Abbreviations have been resolved, punctuation and capitals supplied, but the spelling of the manuscript has been faithfully observed. In the notes, *A* = Ms. 2856, *B* = Ms. 3915.

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¹D. Adolfo Bonilla y San Martín published eight poems of Vélez in the *Revista de Aragón*, 1902, pp. 573-583. Four of these were reprinted and another added by D. Francisco Rodríguez Marín in the *Revista de Archivos*, 1908, pp. 62-78. In the *Revista crítica hispano-americana*, Año V (1919), núm. 2, D. Angel Lacalle Fernández published seven poems taken from Ms. 3700 of the Biblioteca Nacional. Cf. also Gallardo, *Ensayo*, No. 1050, where this ms. is described and where six other poems by Vélez in the same ms. are inserted.

	f. 60 r.
al pie de vna fuente clara, donde olorosos jazmines y madre selvas se enlaçan, cuya suaue corriente,	4
por vna y por otra vanda, enriquecen açucenas, alhelis y rosas blancas,	8
resuena el nombre de Filis; que vna voz doliente y flaca le repite muchas vezes, y casi todas acaba :	12
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	f. 60 v.
Es el desdichado <i>Lauro</i> , que el tiempo le desengaña de los engaños de Filis, a quien dize cruel, yngrata :	18
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	
Filis fue al primer concierto amorosa, dulce, y blanda : rostro tierno y amoroso, para dar al alma caça.	24
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	
Los ojos pone en el cielo, y al ayre quexas derrama ; y con ser el viento viento, las reciue y acompaña :	30
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	
Muero entre agenas sospechas y propias desconfianças, sin temor de nueuo oluido ; que siempre temi mudança.	36
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	
Quantas desculpas dè Filis la condenan por culpada ; que en los negocios de veras no tienen culpas entrada.	42
<i>Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ; que esta vida es muy cansada.</i>	

Las lagrimas de tus ojos,
ya sè, Filis, que son falsas,
y que sobre falso curan,
pues dexan fuera la mancha. 48

*Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ;
que esta vida es muy cansada.*

Filis me dio vn tiempo vida,
y Filis sola me mata ;
y pues Filis me aborrece, f. 61 r.
y pues Filis fue la causa, 54
*ya no mas, Filis, no mas ;
que esta vida es muy cansada.*

No siento parte en el cuerpo,
ni menos la tiene el alma,
que con golpe conocido
no estè por Filis llagada. 60

*Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ;
que esta vida es muy cansada.*

A Valerio le remito,
Filis falsa, la vengança,
y que te pague, pastora,
como tu pagas, y èl paga. 66

*Ya no mas, Filis, no mas ;
que esta vida es muy cansada.*

-
2. *B.* junto de vna fuente clara.
4. *A.* y madreselua se enlaça ; *B.* mil madreselbas enlazan.
8. *B.* alelises y rrosa blanca.
15. *B.* Es el piadoso Lauro.
21-24. *B.* inserts here vv. 26-30.
23. *B.* rostro tierno y engañoso.
24. *B.* para dar a la alma caça.
29. *B.* y con ser el viento junto.
33. *A.* Muere entre a. s. ; *B.* Muero entre a. s.
38. *B.* Quantas disculpas da Filis.
42. *B.* no tiene (*sic*) burlas entrada.
48. *B.* y dexan dentro la llaga.
53. *B.* i por Filis me aborresco.
54. *B.* y pues Filis es la causa.
56. *B.* *adds*: Filis falsa, la bengança.
58. *B.* no menos la tiene el a.
66. *B.* como me paga (*sic*) i el paga.